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13 September 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR: 

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 SUBJECT : Notes on MC&G Working Group Meeting  
of 10 September 1971

1.  of NRO briefed the Working Group on the software simulations conducted for the 12-inch SI stellar/terrain camera subsystem. He noted that the requirement for coverage by this subsystem, as stated on the books at present, is 19 to 28 million square statute miles outside the bloc over the first three years. No priority preferences have been provided. Hence, the simulations were governed solely by weather. Eight missions from January 1973 through September 1975 were simulated, using actual weather from January 1965 through September 1967. Obviously, the coverage obtained under these circumstances was considerably in excess of coverage that could be expected under real conditions with attention given to stated priority preferences. The square statute miles coverage in the eight missions represents unique, 90 percent or more cloud-free coverage over the area given by the graphic portrayal of total WAG cell coverage prepared by TOPOCOM. Some water areas along coasts were included to give a total requirement of 58.6 million square statute miles. Individual mission totals varied from 2.6 to 5.8 million square statute miles.

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2. The following table gives the results of the simulations over the assumed three-year period:

	(in millions of sq statute miles)				
<u>Priority areas</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>Cumulative</u>
Initial requirements	3.3	16.9	26.4	11.8	58.6
Unique coverage	1.8	9.4	16.3	7.1	34.7

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The above table shows what results from using weather as the only guide, without consideration of priority choices, which were not considered because they were not known by NRO. It should be pointed out that these figures include three-way overlap stereo.

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[ ] believes that the simulations are probably as much as 10 percent wrong within the limits of the assumptions on which they were based. [ ] also stated that, even though the MC&G community has not provided any indication of when coverage within various priority categories must be completed, total coverage will never, in fact, be obtained.

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3. [ ] of Army ACSI feels that additional simulation should be run with consideration being given to coverage of higher priority areas prior to the inclusion of the lowest priority areas. [ ] stated that, before such simulations could be run, NRO would have to know what percentage of each priority area would have to be covered in what number of years. He recognized that, due to weather and other problems of programming, some duplicate coverage over an extended period of time would occur to obtain total unique 90 percent or better cloud-free coverage of all areas.

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4. Several participants discussed at some length the need for obtaining a higher percentage in the higher priorities relatively early in the programming of missions. It was suggested by [ ] that the card deck of priorities which now exists for the 12-inch terrain camera be simulated on an iterative basis with seasonal differences being considered. [ ] felt that the results of such gaming would give a better indication of the number of units of the 12-inch SI camera subsystem that would be required in the future weighing needs against costs.

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5. [ ] said that they now have six units and are negotiating for four more as well as for two additional improved units. There was a general consensus that still more units would be required in attempting to meet the total requirement.

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6. [ ] noted that everyone was obviously back to the consideration of the requirements study that should be completed within about a month for consideration by COMIREX. This study would,

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as has been mentioned before, include MC&G requirements for both panoramic and 12-inch terrain camera photographic coverage over a period of years and expressed in terms of priorities. [ ] emphasized that the collection of mapping data falls clearly within the intelligence field and that there is a continuing need for such data, since updating is a basic consideration in terms of national security. [ ] of ACSI felt that, if there remains any question within the intelligence community regarding the importance of MC&G data in support of national interests, consideration should be given to a briefing of selected members of the intelligence community.

7. The question of utilizing nautical rather than statute miles was brought up by [ ] immediately felt that there might be a substantial impact of such a change on MC&G's relationships with various DoD agencies. [ ] recommended, however, that the Minutes indicate that all papers being forwarded to COMIREX, USIB and the NRO, when expressing coverage, be in nautical square miles. There was substantial unanimity among the members that such a decision be included in the Minutes. The representative from TOPOCOM felt that all DoD agencies supplying the MC&G division of DIA with such data for preparation of information for COMIREX, etc., submit the data in terms of square nautical miles. This was approved. So now COMIREX will receive requirements and other coverage information expressed in square nautical miles!

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